



Inequalities in CRVS: Let's really get every one in the picture!

Webinar 3: Indirect demographic methods for measuring completeness and coverage for low capacity countries

08 March 2021, 12:00 – 13:30 (Bangkok time, GMT +7)

A. About the session

A well-functioning civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system helps to ensure that every person has a legal identity, facilitating access to the benefits and protections of the State. Despite national and universal efforts to “get every one in the picture”, disparities in coverage of hard-to-reach and marginalized populations remain. Therefore, the Regional Action Framework on CRVS goes beyond the measurement of civil registration completeness at the national level and includes inequality assessment as part of the essential tools for achieving universal and well-functioning civil registration systems.

While many countries expressed willingness to undertake inequality assessments, they often struggle to understand how these should be undertaken, especially where capacity is low. In particular, the assessment of inequalities in death registration is weak compared with birth registration for which more information tends to be available. The COVID-19 pandemic and the disparities in its impact have highlighted the importance of death registration to be able to measure and report on this. The pandemic underscored the importance of ensuring that the CRVS along with inequality assessments, are strengthened and improved, to respond better to any future pandemic, and have a better understanding of the ensuing mortality and morbidity.

This session will hear experts discuss the indirect demographic methods for measuring completeness and coverage of registration of vital events with a focus on their application in low capacity countries. The data sources required and assumptions involved in implementing methods will be discussed. Additionally, criteria for deciding which method is most appropriate in different situations will be examined. Sharing their experiences and perspectives, the session will explore questions such as:

- (a) *What methods are available to evaluate completeness and coverage of birth and death registration?*
- (b) *What are the advantages and disadvantages of these methods? What assumptions are made and what are the data requirements?*
- (c) *Can these methods be used to assess inequality in birth and death registration?*
- (d) *How can these methods be improved in order to facilitate their use in lower capacity countries?*

This is the third of a three-webinar series which will be conducted to provide vital inputs to the three associated Expert Group Meetings. The activities ultimately hope to provide practical and clear guidance for countries in Asia and the Pacific with lower capacity on filling the gap in inequalities in CRVS.

B. Key messages:

1. Indirect demographic methods are often the only approach for lower capacity countries to assess inequality.
2. The underlying methods and approaches are often complex and should be tailored to make implementation more straightforward.

C. Presenters/Discussant*/Moderator:

1. Part 1: Methods to evaluate completeness of birth registration

a. Mr. Tom Moultrie

Professor and Director, Centre for Actuarial Research (CARE), University of Capetown

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- b. **Ms. Fengqing Chao**
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- c. **Mr. Thomas Spoorenberg**,
Population Affairs Officer, UN Population Division
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2. Part 2: Methods to evaluate completeness of death registration

- a. **Mr. Stephane Helleringer**
Professor, Social Research and Public Policy, NYU Abu Dhabi
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- b. **Mr. Timothy Adair**
Principal Research Fellow, Data for Health Initiative, University of Melbourne
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- c. **Mr. Romesh Silva**
Senior Technical Specialist, United Nations Fund for Population Activities
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3. Discussants

- a. **Ms. Shorena Tsiklauri**
*Head of Department, Population Census and Demographic Statistics Department
National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT)*
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- b. **Mr. Nashrul Wajdi**
Statistician and Researcher, Statistics Indonesia (Badan Pusat Statistik)
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4. Moderator: Ms. Petra Nahmias

Chief, Population and Social Statistics Section, Statistics Division, UNESCAP

D. Programme and Mechanics:

This webinar series be held virtually in Microsoft Teams application.

Presenters are encouraged to prepare five slides based on the outline to be provided by the organizer to highlight the key messages.

1. Welcome Remarks & introduction of speakers and discussants by Ms. Petra Nahmias (5 minutes)
(Ms. Nahmias to briefly describe the central focus of the discussion and background of work.)
2. Speakers and discussant (about 3 speakers and 1 discussant per part):
Part 1: Methods to evaluate completeness of birth registration
Part 2: Methods to evaluate completeness of death registration
3. Each initial presentation will be for 6-7 minutes (total 42 mins presentation)



Each presentation will look at the method/s for evaluating completeness and coverage of birth and death registration, including for different population groups, advantages and disadvantages of the method in different contexts, any examples or lessons learned from applying this method/s in different contexts or using different data sources and if the method/s could be improved. For mortality, differences between estimation of child and adult mortality should be considered.

4. Discussant: reflections on what was heard and share own experience on the potential use of the proposed indirect demographic methods for measuring completeness and coverage of registration of vital events with focus on their application in low capacity countries. (2x7 mins = 14 mins)
5. Question and answer from participants to the panelists will follow right after the reflections of the last discussant. (Time allotted: 25 minutes)
6. Closing Remarks and Wrap up of the webinar (4 minutes)

Duration: 90 minutes

E. Remarks:

Following this webinar, an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) will be held with a targeted number of experts, with the focus to synthesize and develop the material and discussions from the webinar to clear and provide practical guidance to countries on how to better assess completeness and coverage, including disaggregation for subgroups to inform inequality assessments.

The EGM will consist of a half-day session of three hours, also conducted together with partners.

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